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ADOPTION OF THE REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON THE SECOND PART OF ITS THIRTY-THIRD SESSION

Draft report

Addendum

Rapporteur: Mr. Wolfgang STÖCKL (Germany)

II. PROGRAMME QUESTIONS

Proposed programme budget for the biennium 1994-1995

Section 1. Overall policy-making, direction and coordination

1. At its 17th meeting, on 8 October, the Committee considered section 1 of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1994-1995.

Discussion

2. A number of delegations expressed the view that the proposals for increases in staffing, consultant funds, travel, and in other expenditure items were not justified programmatically. In particular, several delegations questioned the need for the creation of a separate office, headed by an Under-Secretary-General, to manage and coordinate the activities relating to the Fiftieth Anniversary of the Organization, and asked whether those activities could be undertaken within the Department of Public Information without the need for additional resources. Some delegations questioned the justification for downgrading the post of Executive Secretary of the secretariat of the Board of External Auditors.

Conclusions and recommendations

3. The Committee noted with regret that the narrative of the section had not been formulated in accordance with the requirements of the prototype of the budget.

4. The Committee noted that the policy-making organs and offices included in section 1 were not within the framework of the medium-term plan for the period 1992-1997.

5. The Committee noted that the sessions of the Fifth Committee had increased considerably in number and duration over the last few years. However, the Secretariat unit serving the Fifth Committee and CPC had not been strengthened accordingly. It recommended that the joint CPC/Fifth Committee Secretariat unit be reinforced adequately through the redeployment of resources.

6. The Committee considered that activities related to the Department of Public Information should be met from within the programme and resources for that Department.

7. The Committee took note of section 1 of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1994-1995.

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Addendum

Rapporteur: Mr. Wolfgang STÖCKL (Germany)

II. PROGRAMME QUESTIONS

Proposed programme budget for the biennium 1994-1995

Section 2. United Nations integrated offices

1. At its 17th meeting, on 8 October 1993, the Director of the Budget introduced section 2 of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1994-1995. The representative of the Secretary-General replied to questions that had been asked during the general debate.

2. The Committee, noting that the question of United Nations integrated offices had been allocated to the Second Committee, did not consider section 2 of the proposed programme budget.

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Addendum

Rapporteur: Mr. Wolfgang STÖCKL (Germany)

II. PROGRAMME QUESTIONS

Proposed programme budget for the biennium 1994-1995

Section 3. Political affairs

1. At its 18th meeting, on 11 October 1993, the Committee considered section 3, Political affairs, of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1994-1995.

Discussion

2. In the course of the debate, overall questions on the section were raised by delegations relating to the rationale for the proposed increase in staff for the Department of Political Affairs. The view was expressed that the need for additional staff in some areas of activity could adequately be met through redeployment of staff. Other delegations were of the opinion that the proposed increase in staff was well justified, especially in respect of servicing of the Security Council and its subsidiary organs, in connection with the Arms Register. Some delegations drew attention to certain inconsistencies in the designation of priority in the proposed programme of work, noting that while the revised medium-term plan for the period 1992-1997 designated priorities at the subprogramme level, the programme of work proposed under section 3, Political affairs, with the exception of programme 6, Elimination of apartheid, identified in several instances priority at the level of activities. The problem therefore of priority designation, although having been discussed repeatedly, appeared to

be a recurring one. Several delegations questioned the need for the level of resources proposed for consultants and official travel. Attention was also drawn to the lack of transparency in the presentation of extrabudgetary resource requirements since the use of funds expected to be made available had not been indicated in an unequivocal manner.

3. Specific questions on the various subsections of section 3, Political affairs, namely: 3A. Policy-making organs; 3B. Department of Political Affairs I; 3C. Department of Political Affairs II; and 3D. Outer space affairs, were as follows:

(a) Section 3A. Policy-making organs

4. One delegation suggested that publication of the Official Records of the Security Council might be undertaken in a less expensive way, possibly using the internal capabilities of the Secretariat.

5. Several delegations proposed that paragraph 3A.16 should be expanded to include the list of the 18 Territories considered as Non-Self-Governing Territories.

(b) Section 3B. Department of Political Affairs I

6. A number of delegations expressed concern over the resource level allocated to the servicing of the Security Council subsidiary bodies. In this respect they stressed their disappointment with the delays in processing the applications addressed to the Security Council sanctions committees. They have requested further increases of staff and resources to meet this objective.

7. Some other delegations voiced their concern over the inclusion, in the proposed programme of work, of references to statements by the President of the Security Council, referred to, inter alia, in paragraph 3B.4, as these statements, in the opinion of that delegation, constituted legislative mandates only when approved by the competent intergovernmental bodies.

8. In connection with the proposed allocation of resources to the United Nations Institute for Disarmament Research (UNIDIR) and to three regional disarmament centres, several delegations expressed their concern about continued support to extrabudgetary activities from the regular budget. One delegation supported the proposed conversion of the post of the Director of the Regional Disarmament Centre for Asia and the Pacific from its current temporary status to an established post.

9. Several delegations supported the proposed increase in the Disarmament Fellowships programme.

(c) Section 3C. Department of Political Affairs II

10. Several delegations expressed their support for the activities proposed to be carried out under subprogramme 4, Enhancing the effectiveness of the principle of periodic and genuine elections, and called for the enhancement of the capacity for assistance to the electoral process. Several other delegations

questioned the legislative mandate for entrusting the resident coordinator with follow-up activities for electoral procedures, referred to in paragraph 3C.37.

11. Some delegations, while referring to positive political developments that had been taking place in South Africa as well as in the Middle East, expressed the need for the resources allocated to programme 5, Question of Palestine, and programme 6, Elimination of apartheid, to be kept under review. However, several other delegations were of the opinion that resources at the proposed level should continue to be provided to implement activities under these programmes until political negotiations under way culminated in concrete and final arrangements.

12. Several delegations were of the view that General Assembly resolution 47/120 A, section II, should have been cited in paragraph 3C.9 as one of the mandates for implementing the activities of subprogramme 1, Good offices, preventive diplomacy and peacemaking, of programme 1. One delegation expressed concern over some of the contemplated activities within paragraph 3C.14 from the point of view of their conformity with the principle of non-interference in the internal affairs of Member States.

13. A number of delegations questioned the programme of work and the resulting resource requirements proposed for subprogramme 3, Trusteeship and decolonization of programme 5, and the Trusteeship Council and the Special Committee of 24, feeling that savings were possible in this area. Some other delegations supported the activities of the Committee of 24 as the appropriate forum for the exchange of views regarding decolonization issues.

(d) Section 3D. Outer space affairs

14. Several delegations questioned the need for inclusion in the programme of work of the Office for Outer Space Affairs a reference to a third United Nations Conference on the Exploration and Peaceful Uses of Outer Space, while other delegations supported such a reference.

15. Some delegations expressed concern about a cumulative backlog in the activities of the United Nations Space Applications Programme.

Conclusions and recommendations

16. The Committee noted with concern that the format of the narrative of the section and of the formulation of the objectives as well as the explanation of the extrabudgetary resources were not in accordance with resolution 47/213 of 23 December 1992. The Committee expressed dismay about the fact that the Secretariat has not implemented this aspect of resolution 47/214 of 23 December 1992.

17. The Committee recommended that the first sentence of paragraph 3A.16 should be revised to read:

"There are currently 18 Territories on the list of Non-Self-Governing Territories, namely: American Samoa, Anguilla, Bermuda, British Virgin Islands, Cayman Islands, East Timor, Falkland Islands (Malvinas), Gibraltar, Guam, Montserrat, New Caledonia, Pitcairn, Saint Helena, Tokelau, Turks and Caicos Islands, Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands, the United States Virgin Islands and Western Sahara."

18. The Committee recommended that the end of last sentence of paragraph 3C.9 should be revised, after the words "General Assembly", to read "the most recent of which are its resolutions 47/64 D of 11 December 1992 and 47/120 A of 18 December 1992" in order to cite properly the mandates for implementing the activities of subprogramme 1, Good offices, preventive diplomacy and peacemaking, of programme 1. It also recommended that the legislative mandate for subprogramme 3 (resolution 1514 (XV) and others contained in the medium-term plan) be added to paragraph 3C.33.

19. The Committee drew attention to the importance of the activities with regard to the various Security Council sanctions committees and their adequate funding within the approved programme budget.

20. Subject to the above-mentioned amendments, the Committee recommended approval by the General Assembly of the programme narrative of section 3 of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1994-1995.

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Draft report

Addendum

Rapporteur: Mr. Wolfgang STÖCKL (Germany)

II. PROGRAMME QUESTIONS

Proposed programme budget for the biennium 1994-1995

Section 4. Peace-keeping operations and special missions

1. At its 19th meeting, on 11 October 1993, the Committee considered section 4 of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1994-1995.

Discussion

2. There was general agreement that the proposals relating to the strengthening of the Department of Peace-keeping Operations were justified given the recent substantial increase in peace-keeping activity. The consolidation of the Field Operations Division into the Department was noted. The Committee noted that the Department, including the Field Operations Division, would be receiving a number of posts from the peace-keeping support account and that those posts were not included in the fascicle. Concern was expressed by some delegations that the resource proposals for the Department might prove inadequate. A number of delegations addressed the issue of staff in the Department who were seconded from Governments without cost to the Organization, which was not reflected in the budget document. While the practice was generally welcomed, as a way of providing the Organization with staff resources more quickly than might otherwise be possible, one delegation thought that arrangement might conflict with requirements for impartiality and

confidentiality, given the politically sensitive nature of some of the work carried out by the Department. Some delegations queried the absence of contingency provisions for new missions. A number of delegations addressed the budget proposals for the United Nations Truce Supervision Organization In Palestine (UNTSO) and felt that the resources requested were excessive, in particular the provisions for the acquisition of vehicles, furniture and equipment.

3. The issue of security measures for peace-keeping personnel and its training was also addressed by some delegations.

Conclusions and recommendations

4. The Committee recalled that an in-depth evaluation of peace-keeping activities was scheduled for 1995 and an interim report was due in 1994.

5. The Committee requested that the Secretary-General submit to the General Assembly at its forty-eighth session his proposals with regard to the requirements concerning the security and safety of all United Nations staff connected with United Nations activities, at the Headquarters location and in the field. The Secretariat agreed to provide a written proposal.

6. The Committee recommended approval by the General Assembly of the programme narrative of section 4 of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1994-1995.

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Rapporteur: Mr. Wolfgang STÖCKL (Germany)

II. PROGRAMME QUESTIONS

Proposed programme budget for the biennium 1994-1995

Section 7. Legal activities

1. At its 19th and 20th meetings, on 11 and 12 October 1993, the Committee considered section 7 of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1994-1995.

Discussion

2. Some delegations expressed concern that the proposed reductions under the programme for legal activities, particularly in respect of international trade law, and the small increase under the programme for law of the sea and ocean affairs, might adversely affect the implementation of the programme of work and asked for assurance from the Secretariat in this regard. In particular, the reductions under external printing should not prevent the issuance of the various legal publications. The question of assistance to developing countries in connection with participation at meetings of the United Nations Commission on International Trade Law (UNCITRAL) was raised by some delegations. A number of delegations stated that UNCITRAL should conduct its work in a more cost-effective manner. Clarification was sought regarding the workload of the Administrative Tribunal and the presentation of its reports in two languages.

Reservation

3. One delegation expressed a reservation on the inclusion of subprogramme 4 (Servicing the Preparatory Commission for the International Seabed Authority and for the International Tribunal for the Law of the Sea) of programme B and its financing under the regular budget.

Conclusions and recommendations

4. The Committee recommended approval by the General Assembly of the programme narrative of section 7 of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1994-1995.

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Rapporteur: Mr. Wolfgang STÖCKL (Germany)

II. PROGRAMME QUESTIONS

Proposed programme budget for the biennium 1994-1995

Section 8. Department for Policy Coordination and Sustainable Development

1. At its 32nd meeting, on 20 October 1993, the Committee considered section 8 of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1994-1995.

Discussion

2. A number of delegations emphasized the importance of the activities proposed under section 8 and supported the proposed programme of work.

3. One delegation expressed concern that the programme of work contained elements of technical cooperation activities, in particular in the areas of social development and advancement of women, which were outside the responsibilities of the Department as defined by the General Assembly in its resolution 47/212 B of 6 May 1993.

4. One delegation expressed concern that the level of resources proposed in the context of programme 45, Africa: critical economic situation, recovery and development, may not be sufficient for implementation of relating mandates.

Another delegation indicated that the activities relating to development of least-developed countries may duplicate those carried out by the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD).

Conclusions and recommendations

5. The Committee took note of the fact that the creation of the Department for Policy Coordination and Sustainable Development represented a new phase in the United Nations activities towards an integrated approach to economic, social and environmental aspects of development.

6. The Committee agreed that the work to be carried out by the Department was of growing importance and of high priority.

7. The Committee emphasized the importance of the World Summit for Social Development, the Fourth World Conference on Women and the Global Conference on the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States and requested the Secretary-General to ensure that adequate services and resources are provided for those events.

8. The Committee recommended that appropriate measures should be taken for strengthening the coordination among the Department for Policy Coordination and Sustainable Development, the Department for Economic and Social Information and Policy Analysis, the Department for Development Support and Management Services, the secretariat of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development and regional commissions.

9. The Committee stressed that the activities and relating resources proposed under section 8 in relation to the Committee for Development Planning and the World Food Council should be maintained without prejudging intergovernmental consultations on the future of the two intergovernmental bodies.

10. The Committee recommended approval by the General Assembly of the programme narrative of section 8 of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1994-1995.

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Rapporteur: Mr. Wolfgang STÖCKL (Germany)

II. PROGRAMME QUESTIONS

Proposed programme budget for the biennium 1994-1995

Section 9. Department for Economic and Social Information and Policy Analyses

1. At its 30th meeting, on 19 October 1993, the Committee considered section 9 of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1994-1995.

Discussion

2. Some delegations indicated that the proposed programme of work duplicated some of the activities of the organizations of the United Nations system and the Bretton Woods institutions, in particular the activities relating to economic and social information in the areas of population and statistics, and suggested that more attention should be given to improving coordination between the Department and the institutions concerned. One delegation expressed the view that the Department's proposed programme of work could help to define the parameters by which the organizations of the United Nations system dealing with social, economic and environmental matters could assess the interplay between their respective activities. Another delegation indicated that the proposed programme of work of the Department contained some activities which had not been programmed in the medium-term plan for the period 1992-1997 and did not

currently have legislative mandates. In particular, that delegation pointed out that subprogramme 5 was not in the medium-term plan and expressed concern at the fact that that subprogramme had been initiated without a legislative mandate.

3. Several delegations expressed their concern at the proposed increase in the level of resources for a programme of work which was not among the five priority areas of a broad sectoral nature decided by the General Assembly at its forty-fifth session. Some delegations indicated that the distribution of the resources among subprogrammes did not take into account the priority designation at subprogramme level as mandated by the General Assembly.

Conclusions and recommendations

4. The Committee recommended approval by the General Assembly of the programme narrative of section 9 of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1994-1995.

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Rapporteur: Mr. Wolfgang STÖCKL (Germany)

II. PROGRAMME QUESTIONS

Proposed programme budget for the biennium 1994-1995

Section 10. Department for Development Support and Management Services

1. At its 30th and 31st meetings, on 19 October 1993, the Committee considered section 10 of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1994-1995.

Discussion

2. A number of delegations supported the proposed programme of work, while considering that the programme narratives of this section did not adequately reflect the activities proposed, in particular the objectives of the Department.

3. Some delegations indicated that the proposed programme of work contained a number of duplications of the activities undertaken in other departments and offices in the economic and social sectors. Other delegations stressed the importance of coordinating activities among the Department for Development Support and Management Services, the Department for Economic and Social Information and Policy Analysis, the Department for Policy Coordination and Sustainable Development and the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development. A number of delegations emphasized the importance of the

coordination of activities of the Department for Development Support and Management Services with the United Nations Development Programme and other agencies of the United Nations system.

4. Several delegations noted with concern the reduction in the level of regular budget and extrabudgetary resources for 1994-1995. Some other delegations, however, welcomed the overall reduction in those resources and queried the increases in some areas.

5. Some delegations felt that the Department's activities should not focus on the least developed countries and economies in transition but should address issues pertinent to all developing countries. Some other delegations emphasized the need not to overlook the specific problems facing countries in transition within the mandate of the Department.

6. Several delegations felt that the relation between the medium-term plan and budget resources as well as priorities were not clearly reflected in the narratives of this section.

7. One delegation felt that in the integration of social groups activities the role of the army should be emphasized.

Conclusions and recommendations

8. The Committee recommended approval by the General Assembly of the programme narrative of section 10 of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1994-1995, it being understood that the proposals of the Secretary-General in respect of decentralization would be considered at a later stage on the basis of the report to be submitted by the Secretary-General and that the Department in its activities would focus on the substantive matters within its mandate rather than on particular groups of countries.

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Rapporteur: Mr. Wolfgang STÖCKL (Germany)

II. PROGRAMME QUESTIONS

Proposed programme budget for the biennium 1994-1995

Section 11A. International trade and development

1. At its thirty-second and thirty-third meetings, on 20 October 1993, the Committee considered section 11A of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1994-1995.

Discussion

2. Some delegations pointed out that a corrigendum should be issued to document A/47/6/Rev.1 containing the medium-term plan for the period 1992-1997 to reflect the recommendation made by CPC at its thirty-second session, that pending a decision of the Assembly on the issue, the existing titles of programme 17 and subprogramme 1 should be maintained. Accordingly, the titles of programme 17 and subprogramme 1 of section 11A of the programme budget for 1994-1995 would also have to be corrected.

3. A number of delegations expressed concern at the proposed growth rate for the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) compared with the overall growth rate proposed for the entire programme budget.

4. Some delegations expressed the view that the allocation of resources among the subprogrammes did not reflect designated priorities. Other delegations expressed concern that the level of resources for activities relating to science and technology for development and to transnational corporations was less than those allocated to those programmes in 1992-1993.

5. Some members were of the view that the ninth session of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development should be postponed from 1995 to 1996, while others felt that the Conference should be held as planned.

6. Some members stressed the need to examine the intergovernmental bodies of UNCTAD to ensure there was no duplication of work, that ad hoc arrangements were not automatically extended, and that economies were achieved in the scheduling of meetings.

7. Some members expressed concern that the proposed decrease in the number of posts might have a negative impact on the implementation of activities.

Conclusions and recommendations

8. The Committee expressed concern at the late issuance of section 11A of the proposed programme budget, which had not allowed sufficient time for delegations to analyse its programmatic content fully.

9. The Committee recommended approval by the General Assembly of the programme narrative of section 11A of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1994-1995.

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Rapporteur: Mr. Wolfgang STÖCKL (Germany)

II. PROGRAMME QUESTIONS

Proposed programme budget for the biennium 1994-1995

Section 11B. International Trade Centre UNCTAD/GATT

1. At its 33rd meeting, on 20 October 1993, the Committee considered section 11B of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1994-1995.

Discussion

2. Some delegations considered there was a need for a clearly defined overall strategy for international trade and development in order to ensure that there was no duplication or overlap in the programmes of concerned organizations.

Conclusions and recommendations

3. The Committee expressed concern that the continued vacancy of the post of Executive Director of the International Trade Centre UNCTAD/GATT, at the Assistant Secretary-General level, could have a negative impact on the implementation of the work programme of the Centre, and stressed the need for that post to be filled without further delay.

4. The Committee recommended approval by the General Assembly of the programme narrative of section 11B of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1994-1995.

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Rapporteur: Mr. Wolfgang STÖCKL (Germany)

II. PROGRAMME QUESTIONS

Proposed programme budget for the biennium 1994-1995

Section 12A. United Nations Environment Programme

1. At its 20th meeting, on 12 October, the Committee for Programme and Coordination considered the programme narrative of section 12A of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1994-1995.

Discussion

2. A number of delegations stressed the important role of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) in the follow-up of Agenda 21. Some delegations expressed concern about the proposed reduction of resources under that section. They considered that, since the environment was one of the five priority areas for the medium-term plan for the period 1992-1997, there should have been proposals for increased resources.

3. Some delegations expressed the view that, although they were concerned by the proposed negative growth of 3.4 per cent, they would be ready to accept it if the reduction of resources was the result of streamlining in support services. Some delegations noted that the programme narrative failed to bring

out clearly the objectives to be achieved and, as a result, it was not possible to relate the resources with the objectives. They stressed the need for improved formulation of objectives in the future.

4. A number of delegations called for increased coordination and cooperation between UNEP and the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat) (UNCHS) so as to achieve greater efficiency and rationalization of work. Some delegations emphasized the distinct roles and mandates of UNEP and of UNCHS and stressed the need to keep the two organizations separate.

5. Some delegations called for the equal treatment of New York, Geneva and Nairobi as United Nations centres.

6. Some delegations pointed out that there seemed to be overlap of activities between UNEP, the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), the World Meteorological Organization (WMO) and the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), and urged that greater effort be exerted to avoid duplication in such areas as capacity-building, forestry and activities related to biodiversity. While supporting the call for greater coordination, some delegations underlined the need for each organization to carry out its mandated activities.

Conclusion and recommendation

7. The Committee noted with concern the projected decline in extrabudgetary resources and stressed the need to assess its impact on programmes. The Committee further recommended that a prompt solution be found to the proliferation of trust funds and the distortion that that might create on priorities and established mandates.

8. The Committee took note of the corrections to the programme narrative introduced by the representative of the Secretariat and recommended approval by the General Assembly of the programme narrative of section 12A of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1994-1995.

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Rapporteur: Mr. Wolfgang STÖCKL (Germany)

II. PROGRAMME QUESTIONS

Proposed programme budget for the biennium 1994-1995

Section 12B. United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat)

1. At its 21st meeting, on 12 October 1993, the Committee for Programme and Coordination considered section 12B of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1994-1995.

Discussion

2. Some delegations stressed that the distinct identity of the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (UNCHS) should be maintained. They emphasized the importance of shelter as a basic human right, and the need to strengthen the Centre. Other delegations expressed the view that UNCHS and the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) had much in common and that placing them under common direction would lead to a rationalization of their respective work programmes, improved coordination of activities and streamlining of support services such as administrative, personnel and liaison services, which could bring resource savings in the longer term.

3. Some delegations sought assurances that the redeployment of resources to preparatory activities of the United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat II) and the Conference itself, as stated in paragraph 12B.18, would not

affect other mandated activities adversely. Some delegations felt that the projected distribution of resources among subprogrammes did not reflect the priority designation contained in the medium-term plan.

Conclusions and recommendations

4. The Committee recommended approval by the General Assembly of the programme narrative of section 12B of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1994-1995.

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Rapporteur: Mr. Wolfgang STÖCKL (Germany)

II. PROGRAMME QUESTIONS

Proposed programme budget for the biennium 1994-1995

Section 13. Crime control

1. At its twenty-third meeting, on 13 October 1993, the Committee considered section 13 of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1994-1995.

Conclusions and recommendations

2. The Committee recommended approval by the General Assembly of the programme narrative of section 13 of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1994-1995.

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Draft report

Addendum

Rapporteur: Mr. Wolfgang STÖCKL (Germany)

II. PROGRAMME QUESTIONS

Proposed programme budget for the biennium 1994-1995

Section 14. International drug control

1. At its 23rd meeting, on 13 October 1993, the Committee considered section 14 of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1994-1995.

Discussion

2. Most delegations commented favourably on the presentation and content of the programme of work. They noted that the General Assembly at its forty-eighth session is convening a two-day high-level segment on international drug control and expressed the belief that its deliberations might be of significance to the programme.

Conclusions and recommendations

3. The Committee recommended approval by the General Assembly of the programme narrative of section 14 of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1994-1995.

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Addendum

Rapporteur: Mr. Wolfgang STÖCKL (Germany)

II. PROGRAMME QUESTIONS

Proposed programme budget for the biennium 1994-1995

Section 15. Economic Commission for Africa

1. At its 28th meeting on 18 October 1993, the Committee for Programme and Coordination considered section 15 A of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1994-1995.

Discussion

2. Several delegations expressed satisfaction at the improved presentation of the programme narrative and the restructuring of the subprogrammes consistent with the objectives and priorities contained in the medium-term plan for the period 1992-1997. A number of delegations welcomed the contents of the programme narrative relating to regional integration and emphasized the importance of strengthening subregional institutions, taking into account the recent developments in that field, mainly the entry into force of the treaty establishing the African Economic Community, which was expected shortly.

3. Various delegations expressed the importance they attached to the continuing development of Africa, including the adequate implementation of the United Nations New Agenda for the Development of Africa in the 1990s. They felt that the growth level proposed for that section was not commensurate with the

tasks to be undertaken and urged that additional resources should be allocated to the Economic Commission for Africa (ECA). Several delegations felt that the subprogrammes and activities related to poverty alleviation, but that women and children had not been given the priority attention they deserved in the programme narrative nor in the distribution of resources. Some delegations expressed the view that ECA must undertake internal prioritization to focus better on substantive activities of a high priority nature.

4. A number of delegations expressed concern at the decline in the level of extrabudgetary resources, particularly from traditional funding sources like the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA).

5. Several delegations stressed the need to ensure that the African Institute for Economic Development and Planning (IDEP) and the United Nations African Institute for the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders (UNAFRI) received adequate resources for implementing their programmes. Some delegations felt that it was inappropriate to provide grants on a continued basis and questioned the proposal to renew "non-recurrent" provisions. Other delegations considered it inappropriate to provide grants to regional institutes from the regular budget.

Conclusions and recommendations

6. The Committee took note of the improved presentation of the programme narrative of the section.

7. The Committee noted the relative inattention given to issues pertaining to social development in the programme of work. It stressed the importance of activities in that field and the need for them to be strengthened and allocated adequate resources.

8. The Committee laid emphasis on the need to allocate adequate resources in support of activities related to poverty alleviation, women and children.

9. The Committee recommended approval by the General Assembly of the programme narrative of section 15 of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1994-1995.

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Addendum

Rapporteur: Mr. Wolfgang STÖCKL (Germany)

II. PROGRAMME QUESTIONS

Proposed programme budget for the biennium 1994-1995

Section 16. Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific

1. At its 24th meeting, on 14 October 1993, the Committee considered the programme narrative of section 16 of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1994-1995.

Discussion

2. A number of delegations were of the view that the level of resources proposed was not commensurate with the expanded workload of ESCAP. Other delegations felt there was a need for further prioritization within the existing resources of ESCAP.

3. Some delegations expressed satisfaction for the proposed expansion of activities relating to the Pacific island developing countries.

4. A number of delegations inquired about the outcome of the consultations on decentralization of activities to the regional commissions, and sought clarification about the date of submission of the related proposals to the General Assembly.

Conclusions and recommendations

5. The Committee recommended approval by the General Assembly of the programme narrative of section 16 of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1994-1995, with the following addition in subprogramme 1, sub-item 3: "Standardization, quality control and related issues leading to the expansion of intraregional trade".

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Addendum

Rapporteur: Mr. Wolfgang STÖCKL (Germany)

II. PROGRAMME QUESTIONS

Proposed programme budget for the biennium 1994-1995

Section 17. Economic Commission for Europe

1. At its 29th meeting, on 18 October 1993, the Committee considered section 17 of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1994-1995.

Discussion

2. Several delegations expressed concern that the level of resources did not seem sufficient, particularly taking into account the increased responsibility of the Economic Commission for Europe (ECE) in relation to the recent developments in the region and its increased membership.

3. A number of delegations supported the proposed programme of its work and the priorities contained therein. Some other delegations questioned the allocation of resources between the priority areas and argued that more resources should have been devoted to trade facilitation.

4. Some delegations expressed concern over the level of vacant posts in the ECE secretariat and its impact on its outputs and requested that urgent measures be taken to fill them.

5. One delegation noted that a substantive part of the proposed ECE activities is aimed at developing and/or updating legal instruments and technical standards which are often of interest to the States Members of the United Nations outside the region.

6. Another delegation expressed concern that Chernobyl-disaster-related problems were not reflected in the programmed activities despite the recommendations of the Economic and Social Council, the Committee for Programme and Coordination at its thirty-second session and relevant General Assembly resolutions.

Conclusions and recommendations

7. The Committee recommended approval by the General Assembly of the programme narrative of section 17 of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1994-1995.

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Addendum

Rapporteur: Mr. Wolfgang STÖCKL (Germany)

II. PROGRAMME QUESTIONS

Proposed programme budget for the biennium 1994-1995

Section 18. Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean

1. At its 29th meeting, on 18 October 1993, the Committee considered section 18 of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1994-1995.

Discussion

2. A number of delegations expressed concern over the anticipated decrease in the level of extrabudgetary resources. It was felt that the level of resources in some subprogrammes did not reflect the importance of the activities to be carried out. At the same time some delegations were concerned about the limited resources assigned to some subprogrammes, especially to those related to subprogramme 14, Regional integration and cooperation. One delegation questioned the growth in resources for the programme as a whole.

3. Some delegations suggested that coordination between the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC) and the specialized agencies and other United Nations programmes should be specifically mentioned.

Conclusions and recommendations

4. The Committee expressed concern that activities relating to drug control and the preparations for the World Summit for Social Development and the Global Conference on Small Island Developing States were not adequately addressed in the programme narrative.

5. The Committee recommended approval by the General Assembly of the programme narrative of section 18 of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1994-1995.

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Addendum

Rapporteur: Mr. Wolfgang STÖCKL (Germany)

II. PROGRAMME QUESTIONS

Proposed programme budget for the biennium 1994-1995

Section 19. Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia

1. At its 30th meeting, on 19 October 1993, the Committee considered section 19 of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1994-1995.

Discussion

2. A number of delegations were of the view that the priority accorded to the subprogramme on the environment was not reflected in the proposed allocation of resources, particularly in view of the negative effects on the environment of the circumstances that prevailed in the region. They also expressed the view that more resources should have been allocated to the subprogrammes on natural resources, particularly water resources, population, and women and development.

3. A number of delegations noted that there was no reference to any activities in the Palestinian occupied territories, and expressed the view that the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA) should develop a programme of activities in those territories as part of the global programme of assistance to be prepared in the framework of the mechanism recently set up by the Secretary-General.

4. A number of delegations were of the view that various parts of the ESCWA programme of work for 1994-1995 seemed to duplicate the work of other entities of the Secretariat or of specialized agencies. They recommended that ESCWA ensure that duplication was avoided and that it coordinate closely its activities with the entities and specialized agencies concerned.

Conclusions and recommendations

5. The Committee recommended approval by the General Assembly of the programme narrative of section 19 of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1994-1995.

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Addendum

Rapporteur: Mr. Wolfgang STÖCKL (Germany)

II. PROGRAMME QUESTIONS

Proposed programme budget for the biennium 1994-1995

Section 20. Regular programme of technical cooperation

1. At its 31st meeting, on 19 October 1993, the Committee considered section 20 of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1994-1995.

Discussion

2. Some delegations supported the proposed redeployment of resources from sectoral advisory services to the regional commissions. Other delegations expressed concern that that redeployment, as well as the expected decentralization of resources under energy and natural resources, might affect the implementation of central programmes.

3. Some delegations noted the difficulty in identifying activities in the section and felt that more detailed information should be provided in that respect.

4. Some delegations were of the opinion that activities related to technical cooperation should not be financed from the regular budget. Other delegations felt that the activities under section 20 had contributed and should continue to contribute to development.

5. Some delegations considered that the scope of the training activities was not as broad as it should be.

Conclusions and recommendations

6. The Committee noted that the distribution of resources of section 20 was indicative, reflecting the demand-oriented nature of technical cooperation and the pending decision on decentralization to be taken by the General Assembly.

7. The Committee recommended approval by the General Assembly of the programme narrative of section 20 of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1994-1995, taking into account the above mentioned factors.

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Rapporteur: Mr. Wolfgang STÖCKL (Germany)

II. PROGRAMME QUESTIONS

Proposed programme budget for the biennium 1994-1995

Section 21. Human rights

1. At its 22nd and 23rd meetings, on 13 October, the Committee for Programme and Coordination considered section 21 of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1994-1995.

Discussion

2. A number of delegations noted the substantial increase of the workload mandated by the General Assembly and supported the increased resources proposed for the Centre for Human Rights. A number of other delegations were of the view that the increase proposed was inadequate and would not match the increased workload of the Centre. Some others, while recognizing the importance of the activities carried out by the Centre, voiced their concern over the expansion of this sector, indicating that it had benefited from substantial allocations under previous budgets. Some delegations expressed the opinion that additional requirements should be met through redeployment from other areas.

3. Some delegations expressed doubts relating to the new structure of the Centre, referred to in paragraph 21.4, from the point of view of its conformity with its mandate.

4. A number of delegations emphasized that the provision of increased resources for the programme should not affect the level of resources required for the programmes in the economic and social sectors.

5. Some delegations were of the opinion that longer-term solutions would be required to deal with the increased workload of the Centre for Human Rights.

6. Some delegations expressed the view that the technical cooperation activities were not adequately emphasized in the proposed programme of work. Other delegations questioned the proposed level of resources under subprogrammes 2, 3 and 4 and felt that the additional resources were not equally distributed among subprogrammes. A number of delegations questioned the designation of low priority for activities under subprogramme 4.

7. Some delegations considered that the programme of work of the Centre regarding the coordination of all human rights activities and the integration of human rights concerns into economic and social development activities were not legislatively justified. In their opinion the activities relating to the economic and social areas should be reflected in the other sections of the budget.

8. A number of delegations noted that the activities regarding the right to development were not adequately reflected in the proposed programme of work. A number of delegations considered that basic economic and social rights such as housing were not adequately reflected.

Conclusions and recommendations

9. The Committee expressed its disappointment that the recommendations contained in the evaluation report on the human rights programme (E/AC.51/1992/3) had not been taken into account during the preparation of this budget section.

10. The Committee was of the opinion that the increased responsibility and workload of the Centre for Human Rights should be matched with an adequate increase in resources, due respect being given to the broad priorities set in the medium-term plan.

11. The Committee recommended approval by the General Assembly of the programme narratives of section 21 of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1994-1995.

12. The Committee noted that proposals concerning the follow-up to the World Conference on Human Rights, requiring additional resources, would be submitted at a later date.

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Rapporteur: Mr. Wolfgang STÖCKL (Germany)

II. PROGRAMME QUESTIONS

Proposed programme budget for the biennium 1994-1995

Section 22A. Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees

1. At its 21st meeting, on 12 October 1993, the Committee considered section 22A of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1994-1995.

Discussion

2. Some delegations were of the opinion that the distribution of extrabudgetary resources among subprogrammes needed to be reviewed while others expressed the view that the level of detail on the utilization of these resources was inadequate.

3. Clarifications were sought regarding the rationale for proposing the transfer, on a phased basis, of the posts of chiefs of mission in 17 of the least developed countries where the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) operates, from extrabudgetary financing to the regular budget. A number of delegations supported such a proposal. Other delegations wished to see a clearer indication of the budget implications of such a move.

Conclusions and recommendations

4. The Committee expressed disappointment that the recommendations contained in the report of the Committee on the first part of its thirty-third session (A/48/16 (Part I)), relating to the Secretary General's report on the in-depth evaluation of the programme on international protection of and assistance to refugees: Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (E/AC.51/1993/2), were not taken into account during the preparation of the section. The Committee recommended that the results of this evaluation should be taken into account during the implementation of this programme.

5. The Committee regretted the lack of specific information about the projected use of extrabudgetary resources expected for this programme. In view of the special importance of such resources, the Committee recommended that such information be provided to the Fifth Committee for timely consideration during the forty-eighth session of the General Assembly.

6. The Committee recommended approval by the General Assembly of the programme narrative of section 22A of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1994-1995, taking into account the above recommendations.

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Addendum

Rapporteur: Mr. Wolfgang STÖCKL (Germany)

II. PROGRAMME QUESTIONS

Proposed programme budget for the biennium 1994-1995

Section 22B. United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East

1. At its 21st meeting, on 12 October 1993, the Committee considered section 22B of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1994-1995.

Discussion

2. A number of delegations endorsed the activities of the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA).

3. One delegation endorsed paragraph 22B.1 of section 22B of the proposed programme budget and concurred with the observation that at the time of the preparation of these budget estimates, no political settlement had been reached in respect of the Palestine refugees, and that therefore it had been assumed that the programme would be continued during the biennium 1994-1995. The same delegation noted that while the refugee population was estimated to increase at a rate of 3.5 per cent per annum, the estimated requirements would remain the same. The same delegation commented that extrabudgetary contributions to assist continuing peace efforts in the Middle East should be over and above what was proposed in section 22B.

4. One delegation noted that no new activities or additional resources had been proposed under section 22B for the biennium 1994-1995. The delegation expressed the view that, as the situation regarding Palestine refugees had not yet yielded the expected results, this subprogramme may still need resources for a time to come.

Conclusions and recommendations

5. The Committee emphasized the importance of the activities of the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East.

6. The Committee recommended approval by the General Assembly of the programme narrative of section 22B of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1994-1995.

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Addendum

Rapporteur: Mr. Wolfgang STÖCKL (Germany)

II. PROGRAMME QUESTIONS

Proposed programme budget for the biennium 1994-1995

Section 23. Department of Humanitarian Affairs

1. At its 24th meeting, on 14 October 1993, the Committee considered the programme narrative of section 23 of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1994-1995.

Discussion

2. A number of delegations expressed support for the increased resources allocated to the Department of Humanitarian Affairs as the minimum required to enable it to carry out its increased workload.

3. Some delegations expressed concern that the offices in New York and Geneva may be duplicating activities, and were of the view that the structures and functions of these offices should be further rationalized.

4. A number of delegations questioned the necessity of having an information unit within the Department of Humanitarian Affairs and considered that it overlapped with the functions of the Department of Public Information.

5. A number of delegations stressed the importance of including legislative mandates for activities being implemented by the Department, particularly those addressing humanitarian diplomacy, de-mining and those linked to peace-keeping, in order to ensure full respect for the sovereignty of Member States.

Conclusions and recommendations

6. The Committee expressed its support for strengthening the Department of Humanitarian Affairs for the implementation of its programme of work.

7. The Committee recommended that the conclusions reached by the Economic and Social Council at its 1993 coordination segment should be taken into account in the implementation of the programme.

8. The Committee recommended approval by the General Assembly of the programme narrative of section 23 of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1994-1995.

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Addendum

Rapporteur: Mr. Wolfgang STÖCKL (Germany)

II. PROGRAMME QUESTIONS

Proposed programme budget for the biennium 1994-1995

Section 24. Public information

1. At its 25th meeting, on 14 October 1993, the Committee considered section 24 of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1994-1995.

Discussion

2. While some delegations stated that the size of the proposed budget of the Department of Public Information was excessive, other delegations felt that the proposed level of resources was commensurate with the work of the Organization in the area of public information.

3. A number of delegations welcomed the restructuring of the Department, and stressed the importance, and need for further strengthening, of its programmes in improving the effectiveness of the Department's information machinery, both on the Headquarters level and in the field.

4. Some delegations felt that the programme should be reviewed against the background of the increasing needs of other priority programmes. They expressed the view that serious streamlining of the Department's activities would provide additional resources that could be reallocated to priority areas.

5. A number of delegations questioned the existence of a mechanism that provided for continuous and systematic evaluation of the Department's programme and activities. It was stated that evaluation was necessary to assess the impact of the Department's outputs compared with the objectives set by the General Assembly. It was felt that evaluation proceedings would also assist in identifying areas of duplication. Some delegations suggested that an external review of the Department should be implemented. Another delegation, while supportive of the concept of evaluation, suggested that such evaluation should be guided by stated objectives.

6. While some delegations emphasized that United Nations publications were highly valued because of their objectives, others regretted that not many were published in Arabic. One delegation specifically requested that the programme include an Arabic version of the publications mentioned in the programme of work, in paragraphs 24.10 - 5 (a), 7 (a), (f) and (m), 8 (b) and (c), and 10 (h), (i) and (j). One other delegation requested that all United Nations languages should be respected. Another delegation emphasized the importance of reaching as large an audience as possible, but made the point that there were many more languages than the six official ones used by the United Nations.

7. Several delegations expressed concern about the treatment of United Nations information centres. A number of delegations remarked that the proposed reduction in resources for information centres could undermine information activities relating to knowledge of the Organization's programmes in a number of countries and regions. Other delegations did not see information centres as a priority. Some delegations commented on the concentration of resources in a number of United Nations information centres, and proposed that resources be reallocated to establishing such centres in developing countries and countries in transition. Some delegations stated that the decisions of the General Assembly were not reflected in the current requirements for United Nations information centres. One delegation expressed the view that the scope of information activities in Nairobi should be comparable with that of the United Nations information services in Geneva and Vienna.

8. A number of delegations referred to the criticism of the United Nations in the media.

9. While several delegations supported the priority designation for information activities on the struggle against apartheid, a number of delegations noted that other priority programmes, as they appeared in the medium-term plan, had not been reflected in the proposed budget. Other delegations felt that there was room for reduction in information activities relating to South Africa and the Middle East.

10. One delegation commented that paragraph 24.73 was superfluous, and accordingly should be deleted from the text of the proposed budget.

11. A number of delegations stressed the importance of the continuation of guided tours at Headquarters.

12. In response to one delegation, the Secretariat undertook to provide consolidated information on resources allocated for public information

activities across the proposed programme budget, including staff requirements, to the General Assembly at its current regular session (forty-eighth).

Conclusions and recommendations

13. The Committee noted that guided tours of United Nations Headquarters constituted an essential part of the public policy of the Organization and recommended that those tours be resumed as soon as possible, taking into account appropriate safety and security considerations.

14. The Committee recommended that the Secretariat should respond more effectively and expeditiously to the criticism of the United Nations in the media.

15. The Committee noted the establishment of the office of the Special Adviser to the Secretary-General for Public Policy, and drew attention to the possible duplication of mandates and activities relating to the celebration of the Fiftieth Anniversary of the United Nations between the Department of Public Information and the Special Adviser for Public Policy.

16. The Committee recommended approval by the General Assembly of the programme narrative of section 24 of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1994-1995, subject to the deletion of paragraph 24.73.

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Addendum

Rapporteur: Mr. Wolfgang STÖCKL (Germany)

IV. PROGRAMME QUESTIONS

Prototype of a new format of the medium-term plan

1. At its 12th and 13th meetings, on 6 October, the Committee considered the report of the Secretary-General on a possible new approach to programme planning (A/48/277).

2. Some delegations found that the report provided a good account of the seminar on programme planning in the United Nations that was held from 22 to 28 April 1993 to assist the Secretariat in drafting a prototype of a new format of the medium-term plan as recommended by the Committee at its thirty-second session and subsequently endorsed by the General Assembly in its resolution 47/214 of 23 December 1992. However, several delegations expressed disappointment that the report did not meet the Committee's request that a prototype of a new format of the medium-term plan be presented to it at its current session and to the General Assembly at its forty-eighth regular session.

3. Most delegations agreed that the plan as currently conceived was not well suited for the important functions it was meant to fulfil. The present procedures of the plan and its revisions were considered too complicated and cumbersome both for the Secretariat, in particular the substantive units, and for the Member States.

4. A number of delegations expressed doubts as to the usefulness of the medium-term plan and proposed that the plan be abolished entirely. Other delegations did not share that view and considered that planning played an important role in consolidating and reconciling the various intergovernmental mandates and was a useful tool for both Member States and the Secretariat.

5. The proposal to separate the two basic functions of the plan, i.e., to provide a policy-level perspective and to provide a medium-term programme of work in two separate documents was not supported. Many favoured a longer-term perspective, but recognized the fact that it was almost impossible to predict with any degree of certainty the course of world events for any period longer than five years.

6. Many delegations also expressed the view that a concise, forward-looking policy document with a perspective of no more that five years, developed in consultation with Member States, might be the best possible solution.

7. A number of delegations considered the proposed four-year programme of work to be duplicative of the programme budget and were not convinced that that aspect of the new approach would represent an improvement in the planning process. Other delegations considered that the programme of work would facilitate the process of review of the programme budget. As concerned the proposal for a one-year budget consisting mainly of financial data, most delegations were in agreement that the present two-year programme budget cycle adequately served its purpose.

8. A number of delegations noted that two important aspects of the planning process, monitoring and evaluation, were not addressed in the report and expressed the view that more emphasis should be given to the role of monitoring and evaluation. Some delegations expressed the view that strengthening of the evaluation process could provide a basis for a revitalized role of CPC.

Conclusions and recommendations

9. The Committee regretted that the Secretariat had not provided a prototype of a new format of the medium-term plan as requested by the General Assembly in its resolution 47/214.

10. The Committee noted that the effectiveness of the medium-term plan in its present form was increasingly being called into question. The Committee also noted that the plan was little used and its impact on the work of the Organization was limited. The Committee further noted that the current medium-term plan did not provide adequate overall policy direction.

11. The Committee reaffirmed the need for a programmatic planning tool beyond the biennial programme budget. In that connection, the Committee recommended that consideration be given to replacing the current medium-term plan by a composite document, to be approved by the General Assembly, containing the following elements:

(a) A perspective, which would be a concise forward-looking policy document. It would contain an analysis of persistent problems and challenges

and emerging trends that would need to be addressed by the international community within the next four to six years and the role of the Organization in that undertaking. The perspective would indicate broad priority areas for the work of the Organization; it would be amended only if pressing needs of an unforeseeable nature arose during the period covered;

(b) A programme framework, which would list only major programmes, programmes and subprogrammes and provide the guidelines against which the preparation and implementation of the programme budget would be assessed. The narrative of each programme should consist of a brief one-page chapter detailing its objectives and mandates. The programme framework should be reviewed regularly every two years in the off-budget year in an effective manner to reflect new mandates.

12. The Committee also recommended that the present two-year programme budget cycle be continued.

13. In the programme budget, the narrative of the substantive subprogrammes should consist of clearly formulated objectives that were designed to bring about, to the extent possible, observable change. The objectives for support services would indicate targets for improved efficiency and effectiveness of the services to be rendered to the substantive departments and Member States.

14. The programme and budget performance reports should detail the achievements relative to the objectives of the programme framework and the resources of the programme budget.

15. The Committee also recommended that the findings of the programme performance monitoring reports and evaluation processes should be taken into account in the formulation of the programmes as a key element to improve effectiveness.

16. The Committee recommended that the prototype of the composite document be presented by the Secretary-General for consideration through CPC and the ACABQ to the General Assembly at its forty-ninth session in order to facilitate a final decision on the format.

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Thirty-third session
6-22 October 1993 (Part II)
Agenda item 6

ADOPTION OF THE REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON THE SECOND PART OF ITS THIRTY-THIRD SESSION

Draft report

Rapporteur: Mr. Wolfgang STÖCKL (Germany)

IV. PROGRAMME QUESTIONS

Accountability and responsibility of programme managers in the United Nations

1. At its ___ meeting, on 15 October 1993, the Committee considered the report of the Secretary-General on accountability and responsibility of programme managers in the United Nations (A/48/452).

Discussion

2. All delegations expressed the view that the report did not address the issues which the Secretary-General had been requested to deal with. Doubt was expressed with regard to the notion of the Secretariat that several systems establishing accountability and responsibility already existed. Delegations felt that even if such systems did exist, they were not implemented. It was widely regretted that another year had been lost without implementing the much-needed system.

Conclusions and recommendations

3. The Committee regretted that the report did not answer the issues which the Secretary-General had been requested to address. The report did not deal with the emplacement of a transparent and effective system designed to make programme managers accountable for their actions but merely proposed to defer action to a later date.

4. The Committee questioned the report's statement that several systems establishing accountability and responsibility already existed within the United Nations.

5. The Committee insisted that the request for a transparent and effective system of accountability and responsibility contained in General Assembly resolutions 47/212 B and 47/214 be complied with.

6. The Committee recommended that such a system should provide, as a minimum, unmistakable allocation of responsibilities among staff members, particularly programme managers, including clear supervisory responsibilities and mechanisms for performance assessment and remedial action. The system should also take into account, inter alia, the elements mentioned in paragraph 58 of the report of the Secretary-General and the relevant existing recommendations of pertinent bodies, in particular, the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions (ACABQ), the Board of Auditors, Internal Audit and the International Civil Service Commission (ICSC).

7. The Committee also recommended that the system should be implemented as soon as possible, but no later than 1 January 1995.

8. The Committee further recommended that the Secretary-General submit a report on the implementation of the system to the General Assembly at its forty-ninth session.

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Draft report

Addendum

Rapporteur: Mr. Wolfgang STÖCKL (Germany)

V. COORDINATION QUESTIONS

1. At its 12th meeting, on 6 October 1993, the Committee considered the question of the preparations for the twenty-seventh series of Joint Meetings of the Committee for Programme and Coordination (CPC) and the Administrative Committee on Coordination (ACC).

2. The Chairman recalled that the item on coordination questions had been kept open in order for the Committee to further consider the preparations for the CPC/ACC Joint Meetings at its resumed thirty-third session.

Conclusions and recommendations

3. The Committee agreed to the proposal of the Secretary-General to hold the twenty-seventh series of the Joint Meetings of the Committee for Programme and Coordination and the Administrative Committee on Coordination at the United Nations Headquarters on 27 October 1993.

4. The Committee noted the information provided by the representative of the Secretariat on actions taken by ACC and the Inter-Agency Committee on Sustainable Development to prepare for the joint meetings on the implications of the results of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development for the United Nations system.

5. In view of the importance of the joint meetings, the Committee reiterated that their format should be carefully reviewed in order to promote an informal dialogue between Member States and organizations of the United Nations system. Given the topic selected for the joint meetings, the Bureau of the Commission for Sustainable Development should be invited to take part in the meetings. The joint meetings should focus on the institutional aspects of system-wide coordination and not go into the substance of Agenda 21.

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Agenda item 7

PROVISIONAL AGENDA FOR THE THIRTY-FOURTH SESSION OF THE COMMITTEE

Draft provisional agenda for the thirty-fourth session of the Committee

Note by the Secretariat

1. In pursuance of paragraph 2 (e) of Economic and Social Council resolution 1979/41 of 10 May 1979 and paragraph 2 of General Assembly resolution 34/50 of 23 November 1979, the Committee shall submit to the Council and to the Assembly, for their review, the provisional agenda for its thirty-fourth session, together with an indication of the required documentation.

2. In its decision 1983/163 of 22 July 1983, the Council requested the Secretary-General to bring to the attention of intergovernmental and expert bodies, before decisions were adopted, any request for documentation that exceeded the ability of the Secretariat to prepare and process such documentation on time and within its approved resources; and to draw the attention of intergovernmental bodies to areas where duplication of documentation was likely to occur and/or where opportunities for integrating or consolidating documents that dealt with related or similar themes might exist, with a view to rationalizing documentation.

3. The draft provisional agenda as set out below for the thirty-fourth session of the Committee for Programme and Coordination, prepared on the basis of existing legislative authority, will be completed at the end of the present session in the light of recommendations adopted by the Committee:

1. Election of officers.

2. Adoption of the agenda and organization of work.

3. Review of the efficiency of the administrative and financial functioning of the United Nations.

Documentation

Report of the Secretary-General (General Assembly resolution 45/254, para. 17)

4. Programme questions:

(a) Programme performance of the United Nations for the biennium 1992-1993;

Documentation

Report of the Secretary-General on programme performance of the United Nations for the biennium 1992-1993

(b) Proposed revisions to the medium-term plan for the period 1992-1997;

Documentation

Proposed revisions to the medium-term plan for the period 1992-1997

(c) Outline of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1996-1997;

Documentation

Report of the Secretary-General on the outline of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1996-1997 (General Assembly resolutions 41/213 and 42/211, and regulation 3.2 of the Regulations and Rules Governing Programme Planning, the Programme Aspects of the Budget, the Monitoring of Implementation and the Methods of Evaluation)

(d) Evaluation.

Documentation

Report of the Secretary-General on the strengthening of the evaluation findings in programme design, delivery and policy directives (General Assembly resolutions 36/22B, 37/234, 38/227 A and B, 42/215, 43/219 and 45/253)

Report of the Secretary-General on the in-depth evaluation of the major programme on social development (A/48/16, part I, para. 35)

Progress report of the Secretary-General on the in-depth evaluation of peace-keeping operations: start-up phase (A/48/16, part I, para. 35)

Progress report of the Secretary-General on the in-depth evaluation of the programme on Africa: critical economic situation, recovery and development (A/48/16, part I, para. 35)

Report of the Secretary-General on the triennial review of the implementation of the recommendations made by the Committee for Programme and Coordination at its thirty-first session on the evaluation of the development issues and policies programme: Economic Commission for Africa (E/AC.51/1993/6, para. 4)

5. Coordination questions: report of the Administrative Committee on Coordination and preparations for the Joint Meetings of the Committee for Programme and Co-ordination and the Administrative Committee on Coordination

Documentation

Annual overview report of the Administrative Committee on Coordination for 1993

Report of the Chairmen of the Committee for ogramme and Coordination and the Administrative Committee on Coordination on the twenty-seventh series of the Joint Meetings of the two Committees;

6. Reports of the Joint Inspection Unit.

7. Provisional agenda for the thirty-fifth session of the Committee.

8. Adoption of the report of the Committee on its thirty-fourth session.